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The situation in the Middle East

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Identical letters dated 8 July 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following information:

The Syrian Arab Republic has informed the Security Council and the President of the Security Council time and again that the Israeli occupying authorities are supporting armed terrorist groups, in contravention of all Security Council resolutions concerning the Syrian crisis. Not content with openly pursuing that disgraceful and brazen policy, the occupying authorities recently adopted new decisions regarding their intention to hold elections for so-called local councils in the villages of the occupied Syrian Golan, in accordance with so-called Israeli law.

The practices of Israel come as no surprise to either our people in the occupied Syrian Golan or the Syrian people and Government. Those unlawful practices have been going on for decades, in blatant violation of international law. Since the bloody events of the past seven years in Syria began, it is clear that Israel has been exploiting and benefiting from the crisis by supporting the armed terrorist groups.

On 25 March 1981, the Syrian Arab citizens of the occupied Golan adopted their national charter, after they had proclaimed a general strike in protest against the odious and illegal decision of Israel to annex the Syrian Golan. In that national charter, the Syrian Arab citizens of the Golan rejected the decision by Israel to incorporate their land into the Israeli entity. They also rejected the decisions of Israel aimed at stripping them of their Syrian Arab character and identity. In paragraph 5 of their charter, our people in the occupied Golan stated that they do not recognize the so-called local councils and that the heads and members of those illegitimate councils do not represent them under any circumstances. They also stated that they had taken an irrevocable decision to reject the imposition of Israeli identity on them. After Israel

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adopted its most recent illegitimate decision, the Syrian Arab citizens of the Golan reiterated that they vehemently rejected the measures that had been taken by Israel and that they would not recognize or act in accordance with them.

Israel has refused to comply with international law all these years and rejected United Nations resolutions calling for it to end its occupation of the Syrian Arab Golan. In adopting its most recent decision, Israel is reiterating its rejection of United Nations resolutions and its refusal to respect the sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic over the occupied Syrian Golan.

In its resolution 497 (1981), which was adopted by consensus on 17 December 1981, the Security Council reiterated its rejection of the Israeli decision to annex the occupied Syrian Golan by imposing a fait accompli, and decided that the decision of Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the Syrian Golan is null and void and without international legal effect. The Council also demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, should rescind forthwith its decisions and actions in the occupied Syrian Golan, and determined that all the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, continue to apply to the Syrian territory occupied by Israel since 1967.

The latest Israeli decisions are yet another flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the resolutions of the Organization, international law and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. Those decisions also reflect the involvement of Israel in terrorism, which it shamelessly supports through its relationship with the Nusrah Front (QDe.137) and other terrorist organizations that are killing the Syrian people and wreaking havoc.

The Syrian Arab Republic calls on the United Nations and the Security Council to condemn these latest provocative actions by Israel, which are a brazen violation of resolution 497 (1981) and will cause the situation in the region to deteriorate further. Syria also calls on the Council to compel Israel to release Syrian and Palestinian prisoners from the prisons of the Israeli occupiers, the most prominent being the prisoner Sidqi al-Maqt, who has spent more than 30 years in the terrifying prisons of Israel.

The Syrian Arab Republic unequivocally rejects the Israeli decision and reiterates that the Golan will remain an integral part of Syrian territory and will be returned to its motherland sooner or later. It also reiterates its support for the Syrian Arab citizens of the Golan in their resistance to Israel and their rejection of the Israeli decision to annex the Golan, the most recent Israeli decision concerning the Golan and any other illegitimate decisions taken by Israel, a country that still believes it can defy international law and the international community, which rejects Israel's occupation of Arab territory, its colonialist policy and its oppressive measures against our people in the occupied Syrian Golan. The international community also rejects Israeli efforts to prolong the Syrian crisis and Israel's provision of material and moral support to armed terrorist gangs. Those actions constitute yet another contravention of authoritative international resolutions concerning the war on terrorism that must be added to Israel's long record of violating international law and defying the will of the international community.

I should be grateful if these identical letters could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34 and 50, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.